

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following is a current listing of claims and will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

a computing system accessing a relational database to obtain ~~configuration~~ information regarding a unit of manufacture, the relational database comprising at least one location information lookup table, at least one parts information lookup table, ~~[[and]]~~ at least one unit storage table, and at least one parameter definition lookup table; and

the computing system retrieving ~~configuration~~ information on the unit of manufacture from at least a portion of the relational database;

wherein said at least one location information lookup table comprises:

a list of available locations in the unit of manufacture to place a part from the at least one parts information lookup table; and

information indicating, for each one of a plurality of available locations in the unit of manufacture, whether that location is required to be populated by a part corresponding to an entry in said at least one parts information lookup table;

wherein said at least one parts information lookup table comprises entries for a plurality of parts usable in different types of units of manufactures; and

wherein said at least one unit storage table specifies a configuration of the unit of manufacture and comprises:

a unit parts list storage table containing information indicating a list of parts for the ~~configuration of the~~ unit of manufacture, and further containing, for each part in the list of parts, information usable to determine at least one location within the unit of manufacture at which that part can be placed; and

a unit parameter list storage table containing information regarding one or more values for one or more ~~configuration~~ parameters ~~values for~~ of one or more parts in the unit parts list storage table, wherein the parameters are adjustable settings for the one or more parts;

the computing system assigning one or more default values to the one or more parameters, wherein the one or more default values are predefined values specified by one or more entries for the one or more parts in the parameter definition lookup table; and

the computing system subsequently modifying one or more values for the one or more parameters, wherein said modifying does not affect the predefined values specified by the parameter definition lookup table.

~~wherein the configuration parameter values provide data unique to the function of the one or more parts within the unit of manufacture[.].~~

2-4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein for a first part corresponding to an entry in said parts information lookup table, a part type lookup table in the relational database is usable to access information indicating a part type for the first part and information indicating whether the first part is variable in size.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table in the relational database that is usable to access:

information indicating that a group of parts is associated with a processor listed in the unit parts list storage table; and

information indicating that the processor and group of parts are associated with a particular operating system.

8. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 1 wherein the relational database further comprises an interface definition lookup table, wherein said interface definition lookup table defines interfaces for a plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table, wherein the interfaces are potential locations for electrical ~~and~~/or mechanical connections between parts.

9. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of ~~as claimed in~~ claim 8, wherein said interface definition lookup table is related to an interface family lookup table in the relational database, wherein the interface family lookup table is usable to access information identifying compatible

inating connections of said plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) [[A]] The method of as claimed in claim 1, wherein the relational database further comprises a parameter list lookup table and a parameter description look up table that are usable to access information indicating multiple pre-defined configurations of a part listed in the unit parts list storage table.

12-39. (Canceled)

40. (Currently Amended) A computing device, comprising:

a processor; and

a storage device coupled to the processor;

wherein the storage device stores relational database software executable by the processor to maintain a relational database usable to access information regarding a unit of manufacture, the relational database comprising at least one location information lookup table, at least one parts information lookup table, ~~[[and]] at least one unit storage table, and at least one~~ parameter definition lookup table;

wherein the at least one location information lookup table comprises:

a list of available locations in the unit of manufacture to place a part from the at least one parts information lookup table; and

information indicating, for each one of a plurality of available locations in the unit of manufacture, whether that location is required to be populated by a part;

wherein the at least one parts information lookup table comprises entries for a plurality of parts usable in different types of units of manufactures; ~~[[and]]~~

wherein the at least one unit storage table includes information specifying~~[[ies]]~~ a configuration of the unit of manufacture and comprises:

a unit parts list storage table containing information indicating a list of parts for the ~~configuration of the~~ unit of manufacture, and further containing, for each part in the list of parts, information usable to determine at least one location within the unit of manufacture at which that part can be placed; and

a unit parameter list storage table containing information regarding one or more values for one or more configuration parameters ~~values for~~ of one or more parts in the unit parts list storage table, wherein the configuration parameters are variable settings for the one or more parts; ~~values provide data unique to the function of the one or more parts within the unit of manufacture[[.]]~~

wherein the computing device is configured to cause one or more default values to be assigned to the one or more parameters, wherein the one or more default values are predefined values specified by one or more entries for the one or more parts in the parameter definition lookup table; and

wherein the computing device is configured to subsequently modify the one or more values for the one or more parameters, wherein said modifying does not affect the predefined values specified by one or more entries in the parameter definition lookup table.

41. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 40, wherein for a first part corresponding to an entry in said parts information lookup table, a part type lookup table in the relational database is usable to access information indicating a part type for the first part and information indicating whether the first part is variable in size.

42. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 40, wherein said unit parts list storage table is related to a processor group storage table in the relational database that is usable to access:

information indicating that a group of parts is associated with a processor listed in the unit parts list storage table; and

information indicating that the processor and group of parts are associated with a particular operating system.

43. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 40, wherein the relational database further comprises an interface definition lookup table, wherein said interface definition lookup table defines interfaces for a plurality of parts in the parts information lookup table, wherein the interfaces are potential locations for electrical ~~and~~ or mechanical connections between parts.

44. (Previously Presented) The computing system of claim 40, wherein the relational database further comprises a parameter list lookup table and a parameter description look up table that are usable to access information indicating multiple pre-defined configurations of a part listed in the unit parts list storage table.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

assembling the unit of manufacture in accordance with the ~~configuration~~ information in the relational database regarding the unit of manufacture.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
testing the assembled unit of manufacture in accordance with the ~~configuration~~
information in the relational database regarding the unit of manufacture.
47. (Canceled)
48. (New) A method, comprising:
a computing system accessing a relational database to obtain information regarding a unit of manufacture, the relational database comprising at least one location information lookup table, at least one parts information lookup table, least one unit storage table, and at least one parameter definition lookup table;
the computing system retrieving configuration information on the unit of manufacture from the at least one location information lookup table, the configuration information including:
information from two or more entries in the location information lookup table, each of the two or more entries including information indicating one or more of a plurality of available locations in the unit of manufacture to place a part from the at least one parts information lookup table; and
information indicating, for each one of the two or more entries, whether the available location corresponding to that entry is required to be populated by a part;
the computing system retrieving parts information for the unit of manufacture from the at least one parts information lookup table, said retrieving parts information including accessing entries for a plurality of parts usable in different types of units of manufactures;
the computing system retrieving information indicating a list of two or more parts used in assembling a configuration of the unit of manufacture from the unit storage table, wherein the two or more parts correspond to the two or more entries indicating one or more available locations to place a part;
the computing system assigning, for the configuration of the unit of manufacture, one or more default values to one or more parameters of at least a first one of the two or more parts, wherein the one or more parameters are adjustable parts settings, and wherein the default values are predefined values specified by the parameter definition lookup table; and

the computing system subsequently modifying one or more values of the one or more parameters, wherein said modifying does not affect the predefined values specified by the parameter definition lookup table.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, further comprising the computer system retrieving interface information from an interface definition lookup table, wherein the interface information specifies locations for electrical or mechanical connections between parts in the unit of manufacture.